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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 15 1997

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am pleased to provide you with the enclosed solicitation for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) 1997 Municipal Solid Waste Grant Program for Indian Country. This solicitation invites all Federally-recognized tribes and tribal organizations to submit proposals for cooperative agreements under the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Indian Program. EPA expects to award approximately 6-12 demonstration cooperative agreements with ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year. EPA funding for each selected project will not exceed three years.

Upon receipt of this package, potential applicants are encouraged to contact the appropriate Regional Solid Waste Indian Coordinator listed in the enclosed solicitation to discuss project ideas and timelines. Final proposals are due to the appropriate EPA region no later than **June 6, 1997**. (Please note that the Municipal Solid Waste Grant Program for Indian Country is a separate funding program from the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response's Tribal Integrated Waste Management Initiative, for which proposals were due to the Agency on April 8, 1997.)

The Office of Solid Waste (OSW) has spent the last several months developing a comprehensive national strategy for assisting tribes in addressing municipal solid waste concerns. The 1997 Municipal Solid Waste Grant Program for Indian Country is a core element of the national strategy. The goal of the Municipal Solid Waste Indian Strategy is to encourage comprehensive integrated solid waste management practices in Indian Country that are protective of human health and the environment. As part of this effort, we have been working with the National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC) to hold a series of focus group meetings between Agency and tribal representatives to discuss tribal solid waste issues and potential solutions for addressing them.

Since November, NTEC has hosted five meetings in various parts of the country, including San Francisco, California; Washington, DC; Cass Lake, Minnesota; Seattle, Washington; and Albuquerque, New Mexico. During these meetings many of the tribes indicated that funding solid waste activities is a primary concern, thus, we established the MSW Grant Program for Indian Country. In addition, these meetings as well as last year's tribal conference in Montana have provided us with excellent on-going forums to solicit information and feedback from tribes on all the elements of our MSW Indian Strategy. For example as part of our MSW Strategy we worked with some tribes to

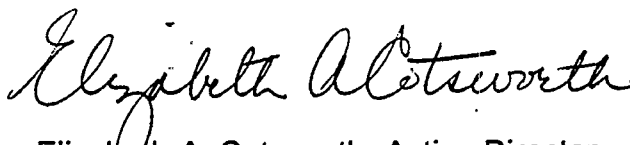
identify and develop MSW information they thought would be useful to better manage solid waste in Indian Country. I have attached three of these information sources which I hope you will find useful.

- *Grant Resources for Solid Waste Activities in Indian Country*, which provides information on funding sources available to tribes and tribal organizations for solid waste projects. Also contains general information on developing grant proposals.
- *Publications on Solid Waste Management in Indian Country*, which contains descriptions of EPA, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and tribal organization publications designed to assist tribal leaders, environmental personnel, and others in developing, expanding, and implementing integrated solid waste management programs.
- *Publications on Mining Waste Management in Indian Country*, which describes EPA publications designed to assist tribal leaders, environmental personnel and others with mining and mineral processing issues.

These documents are available on the Internet through the EPA public access server. Additional paper copies of these publications may be obtained by calling the RCRA Hotline at 1-800-424-9346 or TDD 1-800-553-7672 (hearing impaired). The RCRA Hotline operates weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Address written requests to the RCRA Information Center (5305W), US EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal for the FY 97 MSW Grant Program, or have any questions regarding OSW's activities in Indian Country, please contact the appropriate Regional Solid Waste Indian Coordinator listed in the enclosed solicitation. I hope by working together, we can identify creative solutions to address the growing solid waste concerns faced by tribes today.

Sincerely yours,



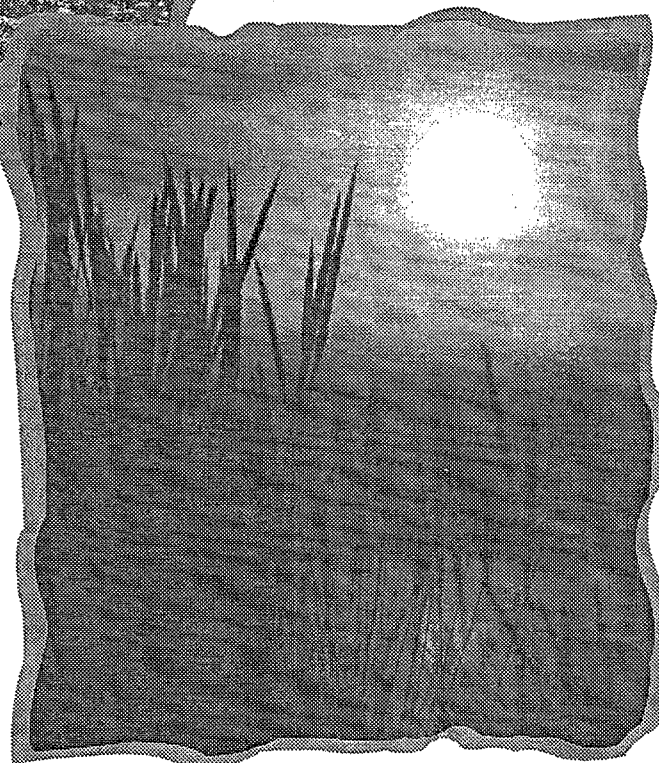
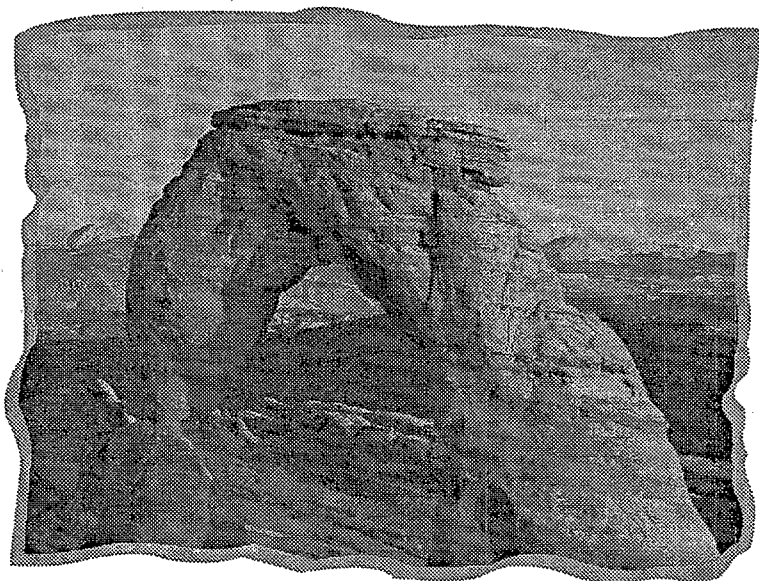
Elizabeth A. Cotsworth, Acting Director
Office of Solid Waste

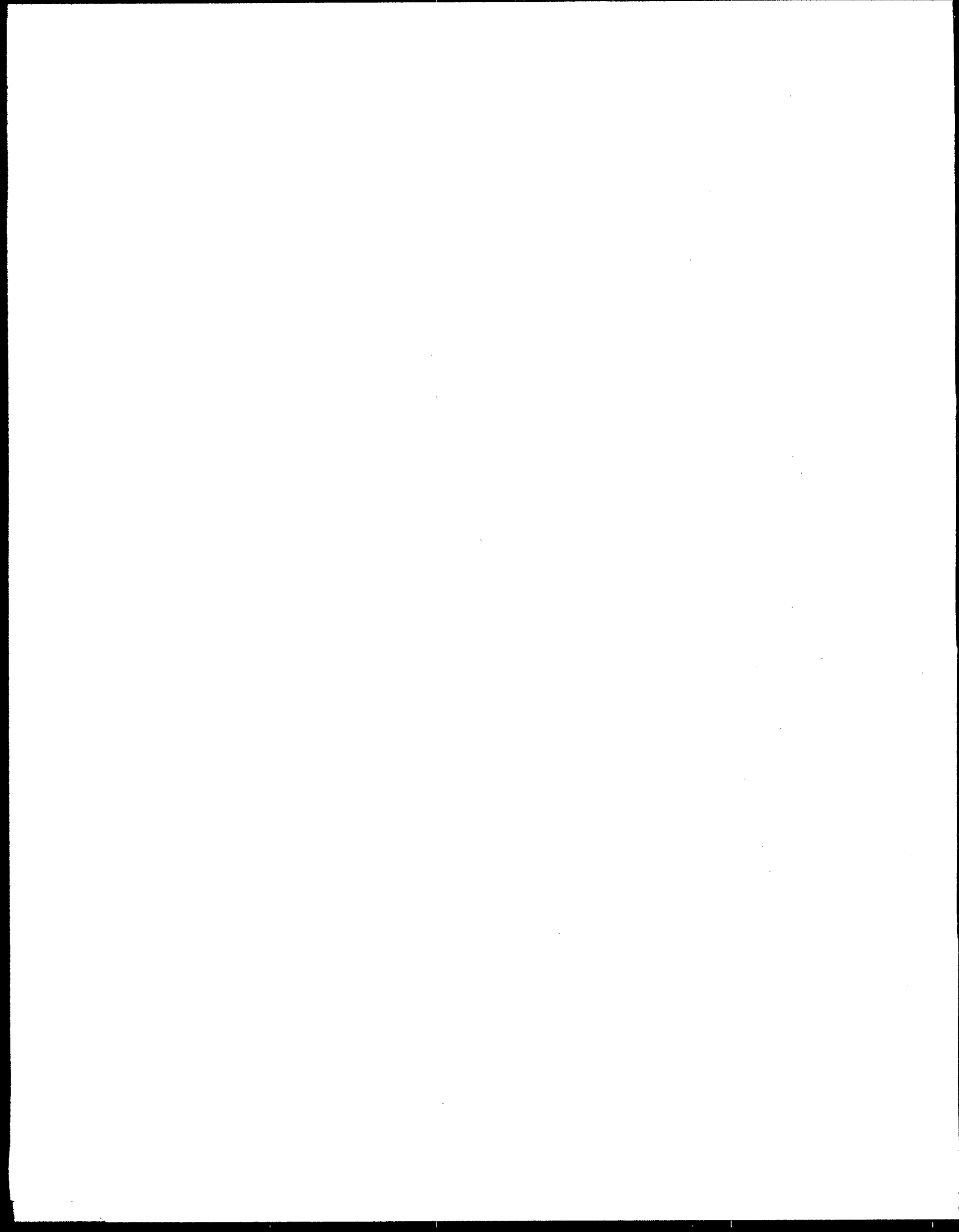
Enclosures

cc: Kathy Gorospe, American Indian Environmental Office



Municipal Solid Waste Grant Program for Indian Country 1997 Request for Proposals





MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE INDIAN PROGRAM 1997 NATIONAL GRANT SOLICITATION

Goal: Encourage integrated solid waste management practices in Indian Country that are protective of human health and the environment.

Grant Amounts: \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year for 1-3 years.

Eligibility: Federally-recognized tribes, Alaskan Native Villages, and tribal consortia organizations.

Proposal Steps: 1) Communicate with EPA regional contact ASAP (see Attachment 1).
2) After consultation with EPA staff, submit full proposal by June 6, 1997.

I. Introduction

This solicitation outlines the procedure for submitting a proposal for a cooperative agreement under the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Indian Program. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hopes to award approximately 6-12 demonstration grants of approximately \$50,000 to \$100,000 per grant per year under the authority of Section 8001 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976. EPA funding for each selected project will not exceed three years. **Prior to submitting a proposal to EPA, we encourage potential applicants to contact the appropriate regional contact listed in Attachment 1.**

II. Background

The Office of Solid Waste (OSW) has spent the last several months developing a comprehensive national program for assisting tribes in addressing municipal solid waste concerns. The goal of the Municipal Solid Waste Indian Program is **to encourage comprehensive integrated solid waste management practices in Indian Country that are protective of human health and the environment** by:

1. Building tribal capacity for developing and implementing municipal solid waste activities;
2. Developing tribal organization infrastructures;
3. Realizing economic sustainability of tribal solid waste programs; and
4. Building partnerships among Tribes, States and local communities.

As part of this effort, OSW is initiating the Municipal Solid Waste Grant Program for Indian Country.

Through the MSW Grant Program for Indian Country, EPA is seeking proposals for demonstration projects that promote effective integrated solid waste management practices in Indian Country. Federally-recognized tribes, Alaskan Native Villages, and certain tribal consortia, will be able to apply for funds specifically allocated for integrated solid waste management activities. EPA will fund targeted work plans that help develop or expand solid waste management activities in Indian Country.

EPA will support the development or strengthening of tribal or multi-tribal solid waste management programs. EPA encourages potential applicants to partner with other Federally-recognized Tribes, tribal organizations, surrounding communities, and/or other Federal or non-Federal organizations. Developing such partnerships will help foster sustainability of solid waste management programs. This will encourage tribes leverage existing resources and/or expertise, thereby reducing duplication of effort and encouraging opportunities for technical assistance. Thus another goal of the competition is to increase the availability of technical assistance to all Tribes via information obtained/lessons learned by Tribes that receive funding.

What is Integrated Waste Management?

In 1989, EPA published its "Agenda for Action" which introduced the concept of integrated waste management (IWM) to the nation. In the Agenda, EPA defined IWM as "the complementary use of a variety of waste management practices to safely and effectively handle the municipal solid waste stream with the least adverse impact on human health and the environment." EPA further defined IWM to consist of some or all of the following components:

- Source reduction (including reuse of products)
- Recycling of materials (including composting)
- Waste combustion (with energy recovery) and/or landfilling.

In an integrated waste management system, each component is designed to complement, rather than compete, with another, and provides for each community to custom-design its IWM system to emphasize certain management practices consistent with the community's demography and waste stream characteristics.

The hierarchy begins with source reduction and reuse to reduce both the toxic constituents in products and the generation of large quantities of waste. Source reduction may occur through the design and manufacture of products and packaging with minimum toxic content, minimum volume of material and/or a longer useful life. Source reduction may also be practiced at the corporate or household level through selective buying habits and reuse of products and materials. Effective source reduction slows the depletion of environmental resources, prolongs the life of available waste management capacity and can make combustion and landfilling of wastes safer in the short- and long- terms by removing toxic constituents. Source reduction is

not used by waste handlers for managing the waste that is picked up every day; rather, it cuts back on the amount and the toxicity of the waste which requires handling. By encouraging source reduction practices in the community, tribal governments can help address potential volume and toxicity problems that may occur with disposal.

The second component of integrated waste management is recycling of materials, including composting of yard trimmings and food. Recycling prevents potentially useful materials from being combusted or landfilled, thereby preserving waste disposal capacity. Recycling can prevent depletion of valuable landfill space, save energy and natural resources, and provide useful products from discarded materials. Thus, tribal officials should give serious consideration to the practicality of recycling and composting programs in their communities.

Although lower than source reduction and recycling in the hierarchy of desirable waste management options, waste combustion is useful in reducing the bulk (although not all) of municipal waste and can provide the added benefit of energy production. Although combustion is not risk-free, a state-of-the-art combustor that is well-operated should not present a significant risk to human health and the environment. When recycling is part of a community's or a waste handler's chosen integrated waste management system, combustion can complement recycling by reducing the bulk of the nonrecyclable, nonreusable waste. Likewise, combustion can be made more efficient by source reduction and removal of recyclables which are less conducive to combustion or which could result in potentially harmful stack emissions or operational problems caused by heterogeneous waste mixtures. Residual ash is a problem associated with combustors because of its potential high metals content and need for proper management.

Landfilling also is lower in the hierarchy than source reduction, reuse and recycling, but is essential to handle wastes that are not recycled and noncombustible wastes such as demolition or construction debris. In addition, landfills can provide the benefit of energy production through recovery of methane gas. Landfills designated for handling combustion ash residuals are essential and, in the absence of alternative ash management plans, must be planned and designed in conjunction with the combustor. Landfills should also be used for materials that cannot practicably be managed in any other way. This may be particularly true in geographical areas with low population densities and/or dispersed residential areas which can make recycling program implementation particularly challenging. A well-constructed, properly operated landfill should not present a significant health risk. For the foreseeable future, landfills will be necessary to handle a significant portion of wastes, so steps must be taken to make landfilling as safe as possible.

III. Eligibility

Eligible recipients of funding under the 1997 MSW Grant Program include Federally-recognized tribes and Alaskan Native Villages. Also eligible are multi-tribe 501(c)3 organizations whose membership consists of Federally-recognized tribes, Alaskan Native

Villages, or partnerships between tribes and states, local governments, or other non-tribal organizations, and whose primary focus is on solid waste projects.

IV. Funding

EPA will consider funding between 6-12 *demonstration* grants of approximately \$50,000 to \$100,000 per grant per year for one to three years. EPA will require non-federal matching funds or in-kind contributions of at least 5%. For example, if federal funding is requested in the amount of \$50,000, the total project cost would be \$52,632. The minimum non-federal share (cash or in-kind) would be \$2,632.

V. Proposal Process

Communication with EPA: The proposal process relies extensively on direct communications (in person or by phone, fax or electronic mail) with EPA regional solid waste contacts. Those interested in responding to this solicitation should contact the appropriate regional contact (listed in Attachment 1) as soon as possible, but no later than *May 9, 1997* to discuss project ideas and timelines. Any questions regarding the MSW Grant Program for Indian Country, eligible costs and activities should be addressed prior to submitting a proposal outline.

Full proposals: After consultation with EPA regional staff, complete proposals (see part VI for format) must be received by the appropriate EPA regional office no later than *June 6, 1997*.

Final selections: The national MSW Indian Team will rank the proposals according to the evaluation criteria (see part VII), make selections by *July 3, 1997* and finalize awards by the end of summer 1997. EPA expects projects to begin within 30 days of award and continue for 12-36 months.

VI. Proposal Format

Six page limit (submit after consultation with EPA regional solid waste staff)

1. Cover letter identifying project, name of tribe/tribal organization, name, address, and phone/fax numbers of project director, signature of tribal chairman (Federally-recognized Tribes) or executive director (tribal consortia).
2. Abstract of less than 200 words summarizing the proposal.
3. Narrative and workplan with estimated timeline.
4. Detailed budget in terms of personnel, fringe benefits, contracts, travel, equipment, supplies and other costs.
Appropriate detail and justification to support the narrative and workplan.
5. Letters of commitment from project partners. For tribal consortia, include charter or letters from chairmen of Federally-recognized member tribes.

VII. Evaluation Criteria (Total = 100 points)

1. Project Description (15 points)

Provides a complete and clear statement of the problem, description of project goals, activities, budget and timeline.

2. Comprehensive Integrated Solid Waste Program (25 points)

Describes how the activities will address and maintain all aspects of an integrated solid waste management program, including, planning, implementation, education, and training.

Demonstrates consideration of all components of integrated solid waste management hierarchy, including source reduction, recycling and composting, landfilling or alternative disposal.

Describes feasible solutions for program management.

3. Sustainability (20 points)

Describes how activities contribute to overall sustainability and development of the community. Activities explore solid waste developmental opportunities within the affected community/tribe which lead to employment, productivity, revenue generation, and technological innovation.

Demonstrates potential to foster long-term economic viability after EPA funding. Describes how the activities financed with this grant, or activities building on those funded by this grant, will operate beyond EPA funding.

4. Project Partners/Institutionalization (15 points)

Describes efforts to leverage resources from other project partners, including other Federally-recognized tribes, surrounding communities, and/or other Federal or non-Federal agencies. Identifies partnering organization(s) and documents the relationship with the applicant. This can be done, for example, through a letter of agreement, a joint statement, or principles of agreement signed by all parties.

Provides letters of commitment from partners, including confirmation of in-kind or cash contributions.

Describes efforts/commitment to institutionalize the coordination beyond the EPA funding period.

5. Measurability of Project Results (10 points)

Explains approach to tracking and reporting results. At the end of the grant period, should be able to provide an analysis of the impacts of the project outcomes (e.g., quantity of waste diverted, quantity and type of materials recycled, sustainability of program), outputs (e.g., solid waste plans/codes developed, education and outreach efforts), and inputs (e.g., number of calls for assistance answered).

Demonstrates alleviation or reduction of impacts on human health and the environment. Also demonstrates how project will succeed after the funded project period.

6. Technical Assistance to Others (15 points)

Describes in detail the approach to providing assistance to other tribes. Explains how the information and lessons learned during the project will be transferred to others.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGIONAL SOLID WASTE TRIBAL CONTACTS**

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